

PREFACE

For the purpose of advocacy and sharing information, this document is prepared to provide policy makers and various organizations - including all international organizations - a set of data about the nutritional status of children in Vietnam.

Malnutrition is the outcome of different underlying factors like food insecurity, inadequate health and care, which in their turn are determined by basic factors like education and poverty. This document summarizes selected indices of nutritional status received from the nutrition surveillance network and some other sources between 2009-2010. The report focuses on the nutritional status of children under five years of age and their mothers, especially on the prevalence malnutrition among the preschool population and the data on micronutrient deficiencies. It also includes data on some of the underlying and basic factors, like food consumption and poverty.

Before entering the second decade of 21th century, Vietnam had rapid improvements in economic growth but the country still faces many challenges. Although Vietnam has achieved significant results in improving children's health and nutritional status, reducing child malnutrition further and in an equitable way continues to be a difficult task. Interventions to improve child nutrition should take place at all levels and should be based on the local situation.

In addition to undernutrition burden, a number of nutrition related chronic diseases (obesity, hypertension, diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases) are increasing rapidly, creating a double burden of malnutrition in Vietnam.

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Comments and suggestions for improving the Report and making it more comprehensive would be greatly appreciated. All correspondence should be addressed to the National Institute of Nutrition, 48b Tang Bat Ho, Hanoi.

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